THE

NEW STAR.

A REPUBLICAN, MISCELLANEOUS, LITERARY PAPER.

BY RUSSEL & DAVIS, CONCORD, NEWH.

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REPUBLICAN.

From the U. S. GAZETTE.

The Warning---No. 6.

IT has been seen, that the government of France has an indisputable title to the culpable pre-eminence of having taken the lead in the violation of neutral rights; and that the first instance on the part of the British government is nearly a month posterior to the commencement of the evil by France. But it was not only posterior, it was also less comprehensive; that of France extended *to all provisions*, that of Great-britain to certain kinds only, Corn, Flour and Meal.

The French decree, as to the U States, was repeatedly suspended and revived. As to other neutral nations, it contained a permanent precedent to sanction the practice of Great-britain.

This decretal versatility is alone complete evidence of want of principle. It is the more censurable, because it is ascertained that it proceeded in part at least from a corrupt source. The sacred power of law-making became the minister and the accomplice of private rapine. Decrees exacted by the solemn obligations of treaty, were sacrificed to sea-rovers—to enable them to enjoy the prey for the seizure of which they ought to have been condignly punished.*

The next and most injurious of the acts of Great-britain, is the order of the 6th of Nov. 1793, which instructs the commanders of ships of war and privateers to stop, detain and carry in for *adjudication* all ships *laden* with the *produce* of any French colony, or carrying *provisions* or other supplies for the use of such colony. It was under the cover of this order, that were committed the numerous depredations on our commerce, which were the immediate cause of sending an envoy to Great-britain.

The terms of this order were ambiguous, warranting a suspicion that they were designed to admit of an oppressive interpretation, and yet to leave room for a disavowal of it. Whether this was really the case, or whether the order was in fact

* *The report of the Secretary of State mentions, (as was known at that time) that one repeal was effected by the influence of the owners of a privateer which had captured the valuable American ship Laurens, to give effect to her condemnation.*

fact misconstrued by the British officers and tribunals in the Westindies, it is certain that the British government, almost as soon as their construction was known in England, not only disclaimed it, but issued a new order, dated the 8th of Jan. 1794, revoking that of the 6th of Nov. and expressly restraining the power to detain and carry in vessels for adjudication to *such* as were laden with the *produce* of a French *island going from a port in the island to a port in Europe*—to *such* as were *laden with the like produce belonging to subjects of France*, whither soever bound—to *such* as were *laden* in whole or in part *with naval or military stores bound to a French island.*

This last order obviated in a great measure the mischief of the former; and though its principles were in some respects such as we ought never to recognize, yet they were conformable with the practice of the principal maritime powers in antecedent modern wars, especially of France and Greatbritain.

These acts comprise the whole of those on which the British spoliations have been founded. Taken with all the latitude of construction adopted by the British officers and courts in the Westindies, they amount to this and to no more—"*the seizure and appropriation of our corn, flour and meal, going to French ports, on the condition of paying for them—the seizure and confiscation of our vessels* with their cargoes, when *laden* with the *produce* of a *French colony*, or in the act of carrying provisions or other supplies for the use of such colony." Our trade with France herself, except in corn, flour and meal, and in contraband articles, has, in the worst of times remained unmolested, and has even been allowed to be carried on directly from British ports.

Iniquitous and oppressive as were the acts of Greatbritain, how very far short do they fall of the more iniquitous and oppressive decrees of France: as these have been construed and acted upon, not only by its colonial administrations, but by some of its tribunals in Europe! The decree of the 2d of July, '96. supports in substance, that France will treat the neutral powers as they have permitted her enemies to treat them.—But under this masked battery the whole of our trade with the enemies of France has been assailed. The two edicts of her proconsuls in the Westindies,* proclaim the capture of all neutral vessels bound to or coming from English ports—and the uniform consequence is confiscation of vessel and cargo. We are now likewise officially informed that a French consular tribunal at Cadiz has condemned neutral vessels carried in there on the same broad principle. The evil to us has been magnified by various aggravations. Our vessels going from one neutral port to another, even our vessels going to & returning from French ports have been the victims of the piratical spirit which dictate those edicts. Outrage, imprisonment, fetters, disease, and death, inflicted or brought upon the commanders and

* *Santhonax & Co. Nov. 27, '96. Victor Hughes, 13th Pluviose, 5th year of the Republic.*

and crews of our veſſels, cauſe the bitter cup of our ſufferings to overflow, and leave the imagination at a loſs for a parallel, without ſeeking for it in the ferocious regions of Barbary.

The ambiguity of the Britiſh order of Nov. was a juſt ſubject of reproach to its authors.—What ſhall we ſay of the perfidious ambiguity of the French decree of the 2d of July, 1796? When retaliation of the partial injuries which neutral nations had ſuffered from the enemies of France was denounced, who could have dreamt that an univerſal war on their trade was meditated? Who that has a ſpark of the American in his ſoul can refuſe his utmoſt indignation as well at the manner as at the matter of this atrocious proceeding? Not only the partiſans of France, the advocates for the honor of republican government, but the friends of human nature, muſt deſire that the final explanation may reject, as a criminal abuſe, the practice upon that decree, and repair as far as poſſible the miſchief which it has occaſioned.

But the treaty with Greatbritain (ſtill exclaim the dupes or hirelings of France) that abominable inſtrument, is the Pandora's box from which all our misfortunes iſſue—When that inſtrument was confirmed, who could have expected any thing better? Peace, ye ſeduced and ſeducing babblers?—Had Denmark or Sweden any ſhare in making that reprobated treaty? Beſides the refutation of your ſlimſy pretence, by the ill treatment in other ſhapes of ſeveral of the neutral powers in Europe—by the information from Cadiz of the indiſcriminate ſeizure and condemnation of neutral veſſels going to or coming from Engliſh ports—Do ye not read in the recent accounts from St. Bartholomews, a *Swediſh* iſland, that not *Americans* only, that *Danes*, that Swedes, that all the neutral nations partake in the common calamity—alike the prey of a devouring rapacity? Will ye ſtill then inſiſt in the barefaced impoſture of aſcribing to the treaty grievances which are the mere effects of a ſpirit of oppreſſion and rapine?

Read the letter of Mr. Skipwith to Mr. Monroe, dated at Paris, the 3d of Oct. 1794, *prior* to the ſignature of the treaty by Mr Jay—Remember that he is an American agent, acting under the eye of an American miniſter, and that both the miniſter and the agent are diſtinguiſhed by a partiality for *France* which exempts them from the ſuſpicion of exaggerating her miſdeeds—What does that letter tell us? Why, in expreſs terms, that "*innumerable* embarraſſments and difficulties had for a long time oppreſſed our commerce *in different parts of the Republic*—that if the French government did not ſoon remedy the *inceſſant abuſes and vexations* practiſed *daily* upon our merchants, *the trade of the United States with France* muſt ceaſe."

Hence may ye learn, that long before our treaty with G. Britain, the vexations of our trade in the ports of France were ſo extreme as to have become intolerable; that "the indiſcriminate capture of our veſſels at ſea by the veſſels of war

of

of the Republic,"* formed only one claſs of the injuries which our commerce had ſuſtained:—In a word, that the predatory ſyſtem of France exiſted before the treaty, and has only of late acquired greater activity from the cravings of an exhauſted treaſury.

The man, who after this meſs of evidence, ſhall be the apologiſt of France, and the calumniator of his own government, is not an American—The choice for him lies between being deemed a fool, a madman, or a traitor.

AMERICUS.

* *This is alſo a paſſage verbatim from Mr. Skipwith's letter. And he produces a long liſt of caſes to ſupport his aſſertions.*

MISCELLANIES.

For the NEW STAR.

Meſſrs. EDITORS,
Pleaſe to give the following an inſertion in your NEW STAR.

Honor & ſhame from no condition riſe;
Act well your part, there all the honor lies. POPE.

A SENSE of Honor is a very powerful affection in the breaſts of mankind—it is diſcoverable even in childhood, and its effects are perhaps not later than the exerciſe of reaſon.

Honor is what all men are deſirous of obtaining, though they widely differ in the manner of their purſuit to acquire it.

That which is truly honorable, is calculated to promote a general good. The happineſs of two is preferable to that of one; and that of a ſociety to that of an individual. He that does an act by which he may profit himſelf without injuring ſociety, is praiſe-worthy; but his part is more honorable who connects his country's good with his own, and is ſtill better, from whoſe conduct all mankind may reap benefit.

None have more miſtaken notions of honor than thoſe who place it merely in external reſpects and adventitious circumſtances of fortune. Riches, dignity of office, or high admiration, excited by ſome ſplendid action, may gain that noiſy applauſe which is called fame. But Honor, that internal reſpect, at which the thinking multitude bow with reverence, is paſſed by him only, "who in no ſituation of life is either aſhamed or afraid of diſcharging his duty, and acting his proper part with firmneſs and conſtancy; true to the God whom he worſhips, and true to the faith in which he profeſſes to believe; full of affection to his brethren of mankind; faithful to his friends—generous to his enemies—warm with compaſſion to the unfortunate; ſelf denying to little private intereſts, but zealous for public intereſt and happineſs; magnanimous, without being proud; humble, without being mean; juſt, without being harſh; ſimple in his manners, but manly in his feelings—on whoſe word you can entirely rely; whoſe countenance never deceives you; whoſe profeſſions of kindneſs are the effuſions of his heart: by him, in fine, whom, independent of any views of advantage,

tage, you would choose for a superior, could trust as a friend, and could love as a brother."—Truly none can withhold honor from a character so truly amiable.

HONORIS AMICUS.

About the Shakers.

From the WESTERN STAR.

Messrs. PRINTERS,

Please to give the following piece a place in your useful paper, for the benefit of the public, and you will oblige a Friend to the Religious.

THE Shakers in Newlebanon and Hancock being on the decline, their old people being dead and dying, and their young people leaving them, they are brought to their last trial to maintain their ground, as such they have taken the following method, viz.—They have appointed two of their servants MORAL BAKER and RUFUS COGSWELL, by name, their missionaries to go forth and preach for the conversion and bringing in new disciples to their religion. Accordingly said Baker and Cogswell went forth, and when they had performed a certain tour, returned and called at my house, in order to have some conversation with me; and soon after they came in. Moral Baker asked me whether I had any faith in their religion, I answered none at all; he asked the reason why I had no faith in them, on which I began to open the corruption of their system, which made them both very uneasy, and rising up to go, I begged of them to tarry a little longer, that I might further open the falsehood of their scheme; but they were so nettled with disgust, they immediately departed; a few days after this, there came a man to my house by the name of Carpenter, who lived not far from the Shakers in Newlebanon, and desired to have some conversation with me about the Shakers, and went on and told me that Moral Baker had tried him and his wife a long time to confess their sins to him and join the Shakers, telling him that thousands were now coming in, and in order for greater influence, said Baker told them he had been to Elder Rathban's, (meaning my house) and conversed with me, and that I stood exceeding tender towards them, and that I confessed they had the great power of God, and that it was the work of God, and that I cried like a child, and further said it would not be many days before I would come in and join the people; in all which there is not the least colour of truth, and I know not what it can be called short of wilful lying; and I understand by people that have come from the towns where they have been in their tours since, that they make the same report, that I own them to be the people of God, and they in the work of God, and that I am coming in soon to join them—thus they are making me a stalking horse to increase their influence among their hearers—which conduct must be the most shockingly wicked. When I consider therefore the awful effects of that diabolical scheme in parting men and their wives, in breaking up families, in monopolizing wealth to

themselves

themſelves in the moſt fraudulent way, &c. I believe it to be my duty to caution and warn people againſt ſuch lying impoſtors, leſt the ignorant and ſimple by them are led aſtray.—What I have here aſſerted I am able to prove by moral teſtimony.

VALENTINE RATHBAN.

Pittsfield, Jan. '97.

MORAL *REPOSITORY.*

IF you ſee a man eagerly graſping at honors which are not fairly within his reach, practiſing the baſe artifices of diſſimulation to gain the favor of the great, or purchaſing rank and conſequence at the expenſe of integrity: If you know a man, who, diſcontented with the ſtation which Providence hath allotted to him, and determined at all events to make a figure in life, in order to provide himſelf with the means of gratifying his vanity and ambition, practices the arts of fraud and knavery in his commercial connexions, or extorts without mercy the utmoſt farthing from his dependents; who on the foundation of the property of others, adopts an elegant and expenſive manner of living, which neither his fortune nor his reaſonable expectations of profit can ſupport:—If you meet with a man, who, while he fawns upon his patrons among the great with deſpicable ſervility, is haughty and overbearing in his behaviour to his domeſtics and dependents, looks down with contempt upon the poor, turns a deaf ear to their complaints, and, as if it were painful to him to be reminded that he belongs to the ſame ſpecies, haſtens to drive them from his ſight;—where you find a man thus devoted to pride, vanity, or ambition, whatever creed he receives, to whatever church he belongs, count him not a chriſtian—for, if any man have not the ſpirit of Chriſt he is none of his.

THE *MONITOR.*

The preſent Life to be conſidered only as it may conduce to the Happineſs of a future one.

A LEWD young fellow ſeeing an aged hermit go by him barefoot,

Father, ſays he, you are in a very miſerable condition, if there is not another world. True ſon, ſaid the hermit; but what is thy condition if there is?—Man is a creature deſigned for two different ſtates of being, or rather for two different lives. His firſt life is ſhort and tranſient; his ſecond permanent and laſting.

The queſtion we are all concerned in is this, to which of theſe two lives it is our chief intereſt to make ourſelves happy? or in other words, whether we ſhould endeavor to ſecure to ourſelves the pleaſures and gratifications of a life which is uncertain and precarious, and at its utmoſt length of a very inconſiderable duration; or to procure to ourſelves the pleaſures of a life that is fixed and ſettled, and will never end. Every man, upon the firſt hearing of this queſtion, knows very well which ſide of it he ought to cloſe with.

But however right we are in theory, it is plain that in practice we al-

moſt

here to the wrong side of the question. We make provisions for this life as though it were never to have an end, and for the other life as though it were never to have a beginning.

PARNASSIAN RIVULET.

STANZAS,
On M. DE LA FAYETTE.

MOURN, *victim of oppression, mourn!*
Thy griefs, though great, must still be borne:
The base, the vicious are thy foes;
In vain the virtuous few oppose;
In vain they brave the force of scorn:
Mourn, victim of oppression, mourn!

The dreary Olmutz' mournful gloom,
The horrors of its living tomb,
The glimm'ring lamp fix'd to the wall,
The dripping damps which constant fall!
All these, and more must yet be borne:
Mourn, victim of oppression, mourn!

The galling chain, the shiv'ring floor,
The long-mix'd straw spread thinly o'er,
The wasting limbs that know no ease,
The pang that speaks the heart's disease!
All these, and more must yet be borne!
Mourn, victim of oppression, mourn!

The wife torn from the bleeding side,
The children's soothing charms deny'd,
The cutting thought—that each may share
Those suff'rings scarce THYSELF can bear!
All these, and more must yet be borne!
Mourn, victim of oppression, mourn!

The insults of the vulgar mind,
The last farewell to all mankind,
The sob which suffocates the breast,
The silent death—the unknown grave!
All this by thee, must yet be borne:
Mourn, victim of oppression, mourn!

INSCRIPTION
For the Tomb of GEN. *WAYNE.*

HERE LIES
Beneath this noble tree,
Fitting for nobler enterprize;
With nothing left than Heav'n content:
Waiting (while ordered out again)
Till trumpets bid him rise,
To join the armies of the skies,
IMMORTAL
GENERAL WAYNE.
The' here
At winter-quarters,
His warlike corps remain,
The' Death, that monarch grim,
A prisoner made of him,
His gallant enterprizing soul
Is on parole,
Viewing each heavenly plain,
Where he
Must shortly be,
With Indian Chiefs in unity,
His next campaign.

EPIGRAM.

WHEN Plato was told that old Gripus was dying, [had been trying,
Who thro' life ev'ry villainous cunning
But to cheat the infernals, had left all his store [of the poor:
To four friends, in trust, for the use
"He may (says old Plato) do if he please:—
"If I love my friend Gripe, I shall have the trustees."

BANQUET

BANQUET of COMUS.

A WILD young fellow was going abroad: His mother took him up into her closet, telling him she had a precious treasure to deposit in his hands, and after many grave admonitions, produced the bible, handsomely bound in two volumes; and, to crown all, advised him to consult and search the scriptures. Little did the youth know how precious the volumes were; but you shall hear. On his return from sea, the old lady one day took him aside, and hoped he had remembered the last injunction she had given him: "Yes, he could very honestly say he had taken care of the bible." To prove his respect and obedience, he runs up stairs to his own room, and returns instantly, with the two volumes safe and sound.

The good lady pulls off one cover: 'Rather too clean, my dear.' 'O madam, I took great care of them: the second volume is equally fair." She shakes her head; intimating her suspicions that they had not been read so often as she wished: Then opens the first volume, and lo! a ten pound bank note is found; the second volume displays a second note, and of twice the value. She was confounded; and so was her son: And I know no man of my acquaintance who more sincerely regrets that he did not *search the scriptures*.

A VETERAN toper complained to the celebrated Doctor W. of Boston, that from long use of spiritous liquors, they palled upon his palate, and failed to exhilirate his spirits. The Doctor, in a sportive mood, inquired if he had ever used AQUA FORTIS, and recommended it to his patient, diluted with water. The toper immediately procured a quantity, which he first mixed with water, and then took in its crude state; but in a few months the aqua fortis afforded him as little pleasure as common Newengland rum. Soon after the unfortunate tipler, meeting the Doctor in the street, addressed him thus, "Doctor, the aqua FORTIS won't do, can't you give me something stronger; do, dear Doctor, *for the love of grog*, let me have a little aqua FORTIS."

AN impudent and overbearing attorney, once in a company of farmers, whose estates did not qualify them to shoot game, was observing, with more regard to his own importance than the feelings of his audience, that in addition to his own *little manor* he had lately obtained permission to range in a neighboring one, "so that" continued he, "you see gentlemen I have now *two little manors*." Very true, replied a person at his elbow, you have indeed *too little manners*.

A LADY was saying she had overthrown her adversary: Aye, aye, said one of her servants, *he took the wrong sow by the ear*, when he meddled with your ladyship.

On a couple, divorced and re-married.

Divorc'd—like scissors split in twain,
Each mourn'd the rivet out:
Now whet, and rivetted again,
You'll make the old sheers cut.